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The American Secretary

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Gironella, José M. *On China and Cuba*. Notre Dame, Ind.: Fides, 1963. 175p.

China's misery has always been relentless. The words 'misery' and 'hunger' have a very concrete meaning in China, difficult for an Occidental to grasp. 'When it blows, three feet of dust; when it rains, the street is no more than mud,' says an old Chinese expression. In China the rivers are not *in* the plains but *on* the plains. In periods of drought or flood the farmers do not say 'hello' when they meet, but rather, 'Have you eaten today?' The enormous misery of China defies all description and constitutes one of the capital sins of historic man, if we consider him responsible for what happens in a distant orchard or a distant desert. The foregoing descriptive phrases and words are indicative of the style of this book. The writer has attempted to give to the world a true picture of the movements within this vast sea of humanity, more specifically as they have been shaped and planned by the former assistant librarian at the University of Peiping, Mao Tse-tung. In this effort, he has succeeded.

In the second essay, the author sets the stage with a study of Cuba under Batista, and his policy and relations with the United States. His somber evaluation of our actions and policies there over the past sixty years is uncomplimentary but fair. At the same time, he makes the point that the deception perpetrated by Castro has been unprecedented. There follows a portrait of the man, revealing clearly some of the many reasons for his rise to power, and how he is able, by virtue of his personality, to keep control of the Cuban people.

If one is interested in the history and future of either of these two nations, this is a book that he will not want to miss.

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Brown, Gerald S. *The American Secretary*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1963. 246p.

Author-historian Brown attempts to set history straight concerning the colonial policy of Great Britain's American Secretary, Lord George Germain, during the period 1775-1778. The book's thesis is summed up as follows: 'The general belief in the military incompetence and pusillanimity of Germain is a myth upon which

too many historians have agreed.' The writer concludes that this infamous secretary did not fail as a strategist, that he excelled as an administrator, and that his only failure was his lack of understanding that the majority of the American people stood squarely behind the revolution. The events leading up to and occurring throughout the war are presented from the British viewpoint. So vividly does the author write that the reader has the feeling that he is present at the decision-making councils of Great Britain. The book is thoroughly documented. The student desiring a complete coverage of the American Revolution will find the book most enlightening.

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